

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-14 and 19-33 remain pending, while claims 2, 10, 15-18, and 34-54 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected, claims 3-14 have been objected to and claims 19-33 have been allowed. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A supplemental information disclosure statement and corresponding form PTO 1449 were filed on October 23, 2007. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 at his earliest convenience.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 19-33 and his indication that claims 3-14 contain allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Vinal (U.S. Patent No. 4,276,555). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, as well as claim 2, from which claim 10 depended. As a result of this amendment to claim 1, claims 2 and 10 have been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is in allowable form and the rejection of claim 2 is moot.

Claims 3-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. Claims 3, 11, and 13 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 1. Therefore, claims 3, 11, and 13 are allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Further, claims 4-10, 12, and 14 depend from claim 1 directly or indirectly and are also in condition for allowance.

Additionally, the applicants respectfully note that claims 19 and 25, which were allowed in the Office Action, actually depended from rejected based claim 1. Therefore, claims 19 and 25 have each been amended into independent form to include all limitations of original claim 1. Further, it is noted that claims 20-24 and 27-33 depend from claim 19 directly or indirectly, and that claim 26 depends from claim 25. The claims 19-33 are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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